

# MEMO

**DATE:** August 14, 2006

**TO:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Comprehensive Plan Review and Update

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## **SUMMARY:**

The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Task Force has completed its second stage of chapter review and discussion, and, at the same time, added several new Task Force members. As such, staff has prepared this review of the overall RCP purpose and approach, as well as an update on status and next steps.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The RCP is intended to accomplish several regional and organizational objectives. Principally, the plan will collect and consolidate the region's policies, set measurable performance targets for the future, and lay out clear strategies and actions for achieving those targets. The plan serves as the basis for SCAG's on-going Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) effort, and its completion fulfills SCAG's obligation to mitigate environmental impacts of the 2004 RTP.

## **Approach (outcomes, strategy)**

The approach for the RCP involves the development of specific performance outcomes within each of the 9 chapters. The performance outcomes are the centerpiece of each chapter, will be the region's stated goals for the full range of planning topics. Each chapter will go on, then, to delineate a strategy to achieve the performance outcomes. The outcomes and strategies in each chapter will be consistent with, and an extension of, the region's adopted growth vision developed under the Compass/2% Strategy effort.

Further, staff intends to use the plan to align resources and leverage to aid in implementation. For example, the current State infrastructure bond measures contain discretionary funds for the implementation of regional plans. The RCP will be the instrument used to direct resources such as these.

## **Process**

The RCP Task Force meets monthly and guides staff on the development of the plan. To date, the Task Force has reviewed policies and preliminary action plans for each chapter, and given staff input on the development of performance outcomes.

Additionally, staff is advised on the development of individual chapters by the following groups:

- Solid Waste Task Force
- Energy Working Group
- Open Space Working Group
- Water Policy Task Force

Staff also provides regular updates to the Sub-regional Coordinators and the Benchmarks Task Force.

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## Contents and Key Policy Issues to Date

The RCP is composed of 9 chapters and two “special focus sections.

### Chapters

- Land Use and Housing
- Energy
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Water
- Air Quality
- Open Space and Habitat
- Economy
- Transportation
- Security and Emergency Preparedness

### Special Focus Sections

- Finance
- Education

Each chapter will have the following components:

- Performance Outcomes and Indicators
- Regional Policies
- Existing Conditions
- Strategy and Action Plan
- Bibliography and reference

Through discussions and work progress to date, the following have emerged as potential key policy issues in the plan:

- Inadequate protection of remaining open space and agriculture
- Depletion of fossil fuels
- Difficulty of pursuing new technologies in solid waste management
- Disjointed water quality planning
- Air contaminants associated with transportation facilities

## Resources

SCAG has a 10 member staff team assigned to the RCP. Each Chapter has a lead author. In addition, SCAG has, to date, retained 3 consultant teams to assist on various portions of the plan, as follows:

- Open Space and Habitat led by Jones and Stokes
- Finance led by Pacific Municipal Finance
- Energy led by Jack Faucett Associates

There is a program website that is periodically updated with new drafts of chapter materials at [www.scag.ca.gov/rcp](http://www.scag.ca.gov/rcp).

## Next Steps and Schedule

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During the second quarter of the 2006-07 fiscal year (Sept-November), staff will present a preliminary proposal for quantified performance outcomes for each chapter. The staff proposal will be based on Task Force discussions to date. Pending Task Force review, each proposal will also be brought to the appropriate policy committee. Subsequently, staff will engage a six month process to seek stakeholder input and develop detailed strategy elements.

The master schedule for the remainder of the RCP process is attached.

## **Environmental Review**

Staff will prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the RCP. At present, we anticipate that this document will be combined with the RTP Program EIR (the same EIR will cover both plans). It is staff's hope that the EIR for the RCP will facilitate streamlined environmental review for consistent plans and projects at the sub-regional and local level.

## **Attachment**

RCP Program Master Schedule

# RCP Timeline

Draft

ID	Task Name	Qtr 3, 2006 Jan	Qtr 4, 2006 Feb	Qtr 1, 2006 Mar	Qtr 1, 2006 Apr	Qtr 2, 2006 May	Qtr 2, 2006 Jun	Qtr 3, 2007 Jul	Qtr 3, 2007 Aug	Qtr 4, 2007 Sep	Qtr 4, 2007 Oct	Qtr 1, 2007 Nov	Qtr 1, 2007 Dec	Description/Notes	Process
1	First Year Draft: Policies/Actions	◆												Policies and actions from existing plans and documents	
2	Outcomes														
	- Categories/Issues	◆				◆								What issue(s) to measure?	Staff/Consultants RCP Task Force
	- Proposal*	◆					◆							Quantifiable measure (how to measure issues?) Report format	Staff/Consultants RCP Task Force
	- Final*	◆						◆						Final report on how issues will be measured/quantified (subject to public review process)	EEC and RC
5	Existing Conditions Section														
	- 1st Draft	◆					◆							Compilation on existing plans and data. Introduce quantifiable outcomes, which will be tailored to emphasized issues	Staff/Consultant
	- 2nd Draft	◆						◆						Staff/Consultant	
6	Strategies and Actions														
	- Proposed Action Plan*	◆					◆							Compilation of outside plans; incorporation of BMPs.	Staff/Consultant
	- Final Action Plan*	◆						◆						What will get us there? Targeted to achieve performing outcomes	Staff/Consultant
7	Resources and Bibliography														
8	Final Draft - RCP	◆									◆		●		All
Public Process/Review Period															

Public Process/Review Period

Internal Review: two weeks before committee meetings

Action Plan: to include the growth Visioning Concept and Compass 2% strategy into all chapters analysis

Key Issues: All key issues will involved and be related to sustainability and natural resources ("Green Plan")

\*+/- 1 month depending on committee schedule